Reform in passport procedures

1691. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passports applied and issued countrywide for each of last three years;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to simplify and reform the procedure of issuing passports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) The total number of passports applied and issued in the last three years are:

Year	Number of Passport applications received	Number of Passport issued
2003	30,99,285	29,55,529
2004	35,15,830	33,52,780
2005	37,09,448	35,70,730

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As part of an on-going process, certain steps are proposed to be taken to further simplify and streamline the procedure for issue of passports. These are:

(i) Widening the network of Speed Post Centres to collect/receive passport applications from the present 218 centres to more than 1000 centres;

(ii) Introduction of on-line registration for passport applicants in New Delhi;

(iii) Augmentation of staff to reduce and clear pendencies; and

(iv) Simplification of the procedure to establish identity/nationality of the passport applicant.

(d) Not applicable.